

REMARKS

Claims 10-11 and 20-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 16 is canceled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 16 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,906. By this Amendment, claim 16 is canceled. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,367 to Mitsutake et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest an optical component for dividing an incident light into two different polarized lights and a selective retardation plate for adjusting one of the two polarized lights output from the optical component to the other with the optical component including a plurality of rock crystal members composed of rock crystal and arrayed in a predetermined direction, as claimed in claim 10 and similarly claimed in claim 11.

Instead, as best seen in figure 2 of Mitsutake, an optical component 20 outputs only one polarized light (i.e., p-polarized light). Further, the Examiner identified that quarter wavelength plates (23₁, and 23₂) shown in figure 2 of Mitsutake correspond to a selective retardation plate and rock crystal members as recited in claims 10 and 11. However, in claim 10, the selective retardation plate and an optical component including the rock crystal members are different from each other. Accordingly, the optical component recited in claim 10 outputs two different polarized lights, and the selective retardation plate adjusts one of the

two polarized lights output from the optical component to the other. As such, the features of optical component of claims 10 and 11 are not disclosed in Mitsutake.

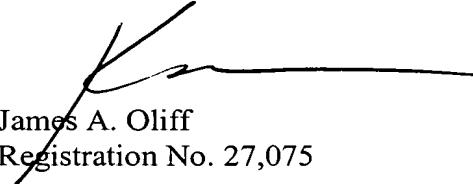
Further, if the features of claim 10 were applied to figure 2 of Mitsutake, prisms (21₁, 21₂, 21₃ and 21₄) should be formed of rock crystal. However, Mitsutake merely discloses that the quarter wavelength plates (23₁, 23₂) can be formed of rock crystal. Please see column 5, lines 40-43. Mitsutake does not disclose that prisms (21₁, 21₂, 21₃ and 21₄) can be formed of rock crystal. The rock crystal members recited in claims 10 and 11 are not disclosed in Mitsutake. As such, Mitsutake does not disclose a polarized light generation section including the optical component and the selective retardation plate as recited in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/cmf

Date: June 7, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461